Criticism of Government Media

321. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY; Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Radio and Doordarshan and other Government Media agencies have not been serving the people;

(b) whether Government have taken note of the severe criticism in the press and Public about Government Media; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a Board of eminent public men both from the Media and Cinema In dustry to review periodically the per formance oi! Radio and Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT); (a) No, Sir.

(b) Whenever there is criticism against the electronic media, viz. All India Radio and Doordarshan, the point of criticism is enquired into and corrective action taken, wherever necessary.

(c) No, Sir.

Import of wheat from USA Unfit for human Consumption

322. DR. BAPU KALDATE; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat imposed by the Food Corporation of India from America in December, 1988;

(b) the quantity of pest infected wheat supplied to States, State-wise; and

(c) the total quantity of wheat which was destroyed by Food Corporation of India as unfit for human consump tion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER I THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITA) (a) A quantity of 20.11 lakh tonnes ' wheat has been imported from USA during 1988-89.

(b) and (c) Even though some very stray incidence of ergot and dwarf affected grains were detected in some of the shipments, these ar$_e$ well with in the Prevention of Food Adultera tion (PFA) Act limits and the entire consignment of wheat imported from USA is fit for human consumption. Such type of wheat has been imported by us since 1950s and is being current ly exported by USA in huge quantities to such major consumers like USSR, Japan, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc. Though entire consignment of US wheat is meant for human consump tion and chances of dwarf bunt infestation spreading in wheat cultivation in India are negligible yet as a measure of abundant caution, dwarf affected wheat has been diverted to non-wheat growing areas to avoid chances of its being used by some one per chance as seed.

The following table gives quantities of ergot and dwarf bunt affected wheat diverted to various States:—

(Quantity in M.T.)

Porto/States		Quantity affected by Ergot	Quantity affected with both Ergot and Dwarf Bunt	Quantity affected by Dwarf Bunt
Goa	TOTAL	3329	13184	106813
Maharashtra		25924	37570	88928
Gujarat .		54317	178722	25900
Tamilnadu		40230		
Andhra Pradesh		35733		
Kerala		92276		
Karnataka		63665		
		. 315474	229476	221641